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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,619	03/10/2004	Zachary W. Lyon	40009-0002	6179

20480 7590 02/13/2007
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EXAMINER

CEGIELNIK, URSZULA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3711

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,619

Applicant(s)

LYON, ZACHARY W.

Examiner

Urszula M. Cegielnik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites "flexible tabs on said vibratory member reconfigured to snap fit between inner and outer rings of said socket". It is not clear whether applicant is intending to structurally claim the inner and outer rings or not.

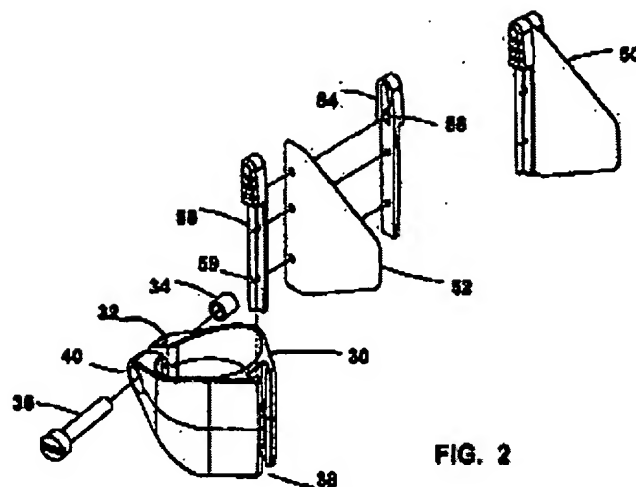
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Coleman (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0116045).



Coleman discloses a vibratory member (52) configured to be vibrated by the spokes of a rotating wheel; and a main body supporting the vibratory member (52) on the vehicle, the main body further comprising an identity plate (54,56); the identity plate (54,56) comprising one or more panels (paragraph 0041, lines 8-9) bearing identification indicia or decorative elements (paragraph 0056), the panels being selectively and releasably attached to the main body (*the panels are attached via reference parts 54,56, which is removable via sliding into portion encompassed by reference part 30 while reference part 38 {main body} stays attached to the vehicle frame, see Figure 2*) such that the identification indicia or decorative elements on the vehicle can be changed by replaced a panel attached to the main body without removing the main body from the vehicle (paragraph 0042, lines 26-29); the vibratory member (52) snaps into a socket (30) on the main body (38) (via grooves of flapper mount assembly 50 and raises within the channel of the mounting clamp enclosure 38); the socket (30) having an inner (the inner portion of reference part 30) and outer rings (the outer portion of reference part 30) of the socket; the vibratory member is configured to snap into the socket at any of a

variety of angles with respect to the main body so as to accommodate differently sized bicycles (paragraph 0055).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coleman (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0116045).

Coleman discloses the claimed invention except for the identity plate bearing graphics in the form of identification numbers; flexible tabs on the vibratory member; the splits being tapered, narrowing toward the base and a corner of one or more of the portions being rounded, the fastening arrangement being a zip tie threaded through holes in the vibration element; notches disposed around a periphery of the socket for receiving tabs disposed around a periphery of the vibratory member, the notches corresponding to the variety of angles (paragraph 0042, lines 11-16 and 29-32)

With regards to the splits being tapered, narrowing toward the base and a corner of more or more of the portions being rounded, Coleman discloses that the vibration element may be in any geometric or non-geometric shape (paragraph 0056) as well as showing a configuration of a flapper with split configuration in Figure 5A.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the splits as being tapered, narrowing toward the base

and the corner of one or more portions as being rounded, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPG 416.

With respect to the zip tie fastening element, Coleman recites that a variety of other fastening means may be used such as ties, snaps, buckles as well as screws to secure the flapper mount assembly in the enclosure 38 (paragraph 0042, lines 29-32). Coleman further shows apertures in the flapper mount assembly to be used with the above recited fasteners (Figures 2 and 5A).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a zip tie with an associated aperture, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPG 416.

With regards to flexible tabs on the vibratory member, Coleman teaches a variety of fastening mechanisms for assembling the vibratory member to the bicycle (paragraph 0041, lines 9-12).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide tabs on the vibratory member as taught by Coleman, since such a modification would provide an alternate means of attaching the vibratory member to the bicycle.

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With regards to the notches disposed around a periphery of the socket for receiving tabs disposed around a periphery of the vibratory member and the notches corresponding to the variety of angles, Coleman discloses that the flapper assembly may be mounted to the socket in a variety of ways (paragraph 0042, lines 11-16 and 29-32).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the claimed features as taught by Coleman, since such a modification would provide an alternate manner of attaching flappers to the bicycle.

With regards to the identity plate bearing identification numbers, Coleman discloses the claimed invention except for the specific arrangement and/or content of indicia (printed matter) set forth in the claim(s). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide indicia in the form of numbers since it would only depend on the intended use of the assembly and the desired information to be displayed. Further, it has been held that when the claimed printed matter is not functionally related to the substrate it will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. In re Gulack 217 USPQ 401, (CAFC 1983). The fact that the content of the printed matter placed on the substrate may render the device more convenient by providing an individual with a specific type of graphics does not alter the functional relationship. Mere support by the substrate for the printed matter is not the kind of functional relationship necessary for patentability. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter e.g.

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indicia having numbers and the substrate e.g. identity plate which is required for patentability.

With regard to the limitation of the stickers or labels being a sheet, the examiner takes Official Notice that stickers or labels are present in a sheet format when printing them using a printer actuated by a computer.

Response to Arguments

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest "one or more panels bearing identification indicia or decorative elements on said vehicle can be changed by replacing said panel". Applicant further states that Coleman does not teach or suggest that a "graphic treatment" is applied to a panel that is selectively and releasably attached to the main body of the accessory. The Examiner submits that the recitation "said panels being selectively and releasably attached to said main body such that the identification indicia or decorative elements on said vehicle can be changed by replacing said a panel attached to said main body without removing said main body from said vehicle" is functional in nature and does not introduce any added structural limitations other than one or more panels bearing identification indicia or decorative elements. The Applicant must distinguish over the prior art with structural limitations. As currently claimed, Coleman is capable of performing the intended function.

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest a vibratory member that snaps into a socket on the main body. The Examiner submits that Coleman does disclose a vibratory member that snaps into a socket on the main body. The vibratory

member (52) snaps into the main body via mounting portions (54,56) which are slid and snapped into place with the main body (38).

With regard to Applicant's argument that Coleman does not disclose inner and outer socket rings, and the vibratory member comprising a round base that is configured to snap fit between the inner and outer rings of the socket. The Examiner submits that Coleman shows a socket (30) having an inner ring (the inner portion of reference part 30) and an outer ring (the outer portion of reference part 30), the vibratory member is configured to be snap fit between the inner ring and the outer ring.

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest "the vibratory member is configured to snap into a socket on said main body at any of a variety of angles with respect to the main body so as to accommodate different sized bicycles". The Examiner submits that Coleman at paragraph 0055 states, "the flapper may extend farther or not far into the path of the spokes, or the flapper may be placed closer or very near the center of the wheel or the outer edge of the rim near the tire".

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest the claimed notches disposed around the socket corresponding to a variety of angles at which the vibratory member can be attached to accommodate differently sized bicycles. The Examiner submits that that Coleman teaches notches (i.e. corresponding raises within the channel of the mounting clamp enclosure 38) which is disposed around the socket (30)

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest a three-point attachment scheme. The Examiner submits that Coleman discloses the accessory (i.e.

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flapper 52) that has three holes (59) (i.e. attachment points) which is mounted to the bicycle via flapper mount assembly 50.

Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest a main body comprising an attachment point comprising "a plurality of holes disposed around the periphery of a protrusion such that a zip tie can be threaded through said holes at a plurality of angles with respect to said main body". The Examiner submits that Coleman discloses a plurality of holes (59) around the periphery of a protrusion (the extending peripheral mounting portion of reference part 38), the zip ties are capable of being mounted at a plurality of angles.

The Applicant states that Coleman does not teach or suggest a packaged kit that includes an identify plate and a "variety of identification indicia or decorative elements that can be selectively disposed on said identity plate". The Examiner submits that Coleman discloses an identify plate (54,56) bearing identification indicia or decorative elements (paragraph 0056). Coleman in the broadest sense does disclose a packaged kit as all the elements of the flapper are capable of being assembled or disassembled.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Urszula M. Cegielnik whose telephone number is 571-272-4420. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 5:45AM-2:15PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene L. Kim can be reached on 571-272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Urszula M Cegielnik
Examiner
Art Unit 3711



EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER